

House Republican Press Release

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Reps. Stone, Tymniak Urge Smaller Budget Increase



Legislators say 17 percent; two-year spending hike is too large

State Reps. Cathy C. Tymniak, R-133, and Jack Stone, R-134, said a proposed state budget calling for a 17 percent increase over two years spends too much, fails to cut any taxes and uses up a surplus instead of saving it for future

emergencies.

Reps. Stone and Tymniak, members of the legislature's Appropriations Committee, opposed the committee's proposed budget that raises spending more than the governor's proposed budget.

Rep. Stone said, "I doubt any Connecticut family can afford a 17 percent spending increase. I hope this budget can be scaled down before it comes to the full legislature for a final vote."

Rep. Stone added, "The budget as it now stands goes from a \$600 million surplus to a proposed \$500 million to \$800 million deficit next year. That represents a swing of over \$1 billion in a year's time. This can only lead to a dramatic tax increase as opposed to Gov. Rell's efforts to reduce taxes, especially for seniors. This is totally unacceptable."

"This was the year that everyone agreed we would begin rebuilding the Connecticut economy," said Rep. Tymniak. "We would start lowering the tax burden so as to attract more businesses, more jobs and more investment in Connecticut. Instead, the legislature is moving in the opposite direction."

Rep. Tymniak added, "No business would run on a budget like this. For the next two years, it is building in a billion-dollar deficit."

The Fairfield legislators noted that the committee spending plan leaves no room for a repeal of the annual car tax, maintaining a property tax credit for seniors, an estate tax cut, energy tax cuts for consumers or other tax cuts that have been proposed to help families and businesses in Connecticut.

"Legislative leaders announced at the beginning of the session that they planned to hold down spending and taxes to attract more jobs to Connecticut," said Rep. Tymniak. "We

all recognize that Connecticut is lagging the nation in job creation but this budget does nothing to help improve the state's reputation as a high-cost state."

Rep. Stone said, "The number and quality of jobs being created is a major concern. We must attract more higher-paying jobs to Connecticut to help keep young people from leaving the state for better prospects in the West and South."

The full legislature is scheduled to act on the state budget before its May 3 constitutional deadline.